

From: Garetz, Susan
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 12:34 PM
To: Planning; Petersen, Sally; Lumm, Jane; Briere, Sabra; Kunselman, Stephen; 'campaign@taylorforannarbor.com'
Cc: garetz@umich.edu; Sonia Urbaniak <soniaurbaniak1@gmail.com> (soniaurbaniak1@gmail.com); 'Elizabeth Papp Kamali'
Subject: Petition for Special Exception Use at 1919 Wayne

June 10, 2014

Wendy Rampson
Planning Manager
wrampson@a2gov.org

Alexis Dileo
City Planner
amdrleo@aZgov.org

Re: Petition for Special Exception Use at 1919 Wayne

Dear Ms. Rampson and Ms. Dileo:

I am writing to voice my support for approval of the Jesuits' request for a special exception to purchase the house at 1919 Wayne Street. I feel the group falls within the definition of a "functional family unit" by virtue of their commitment to live a communal life characterized by pooling of income, shared domestic responsibilities, and permanency in living arrangements. Moreover, my understanding is that this group of individuals has maintained an identical living arrangement in a similar residential neighborhood a short distance away for the past 6 years, during which time they have proven to be exemplary neighbors.

I am a long term resident and property owner within the Oxbridge neighborhood. I have lived with my husband and children in two separate residences within one block of the property under discussion for the past 25 years. Since hearing about the pending sale, I have tried to inform myself about the issue. It appears the Jesuit group has taken every step possible to address the issues and concerns voiced by the neighborhood including the use of an on-site garage, driveway space and two spaces offered by the neighboring Church of Christ Scientist for parking, their plans for only internal renovations to the property and their description of who would reside in the house (Jesuits or seminarians, one of which may be a graduate student).

As a long term member of the Oxbridge Neighborhood Association (ONA) I was informed but was unable to attend the initial meeting to discuss this issue. I was not informed that a decision had been made to oppose the special exemption nor that an attorney had been appointed to assist in that task. I am not convinced that this decision reflects the majority opinion of the ONA members.

While I share my neighbors' concerns over the possibility of setting a precedent that could lead to fraternities, sororities or rental properties housing large transient student groups moving into the neighborhood, I do not believe that concern should influence the current situation. Granting this special petition would create a one-time exception for the Jesuits only, and not a permanent change in zoning. The term "throwing out the baby with the bathwater" comes to mind. I would hope that our neighborhood is better than that.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Garetz, MD
2024 Vinewood Blvd